



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee held in the Westin Hyderabad Mindspace, Hyderabad, India at 09h00 on Thursday 13 December 2012

- 1. President's welcome and opening remarks:** the President thanked the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) for the high level of hospitality for all participants as well as for the promotion associated with the event and top quality competition facilities.

The Secretary General of the TTFI, Mr DR Choudhary, accompanied by Messrs Bawa and Sultan, welcomed the Executive Committee. The late Mr MC Chowhan had initiated the process to host the world junior championships, which debuted in 2003. Since India's bid for 2013 was moved earlier by the ITTF to 2012, the organisation was a challenge over the past six months for the TTFI and the Andhra Pradesh Table Tennis Federation as the standard of previous events was very high.

- 2. Roll call**

Adham Sharara	President
Neil Harwood	Deputy President and Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President
Thomas Weikert	Executive Vice-President

In attendance

Claude Bergeret	In place of the Athletes' Commission Chair
Judit Faragó	CEO and Executive Director (Competitions)
Jordi Serra	Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games)
Mikael Andersson	Executive Director (Education and Training)
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO and Executive Director (Development)
Steve Dainton	Marketing Director
Alison Burchell	Deputy Executive Director (Operations)
Christian Veronese	TMS

- 3. Approval of the agenda:** the Executive Committee approved the agenda as presented with the addition of:
 - 15.1 Eligibility of a player from Germany.
 - 15.2 Greenland.
 - 15.3 Russian Open prize money.

- 4. Minutes**

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting: the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2012 in Paris were confirmed and signed by the President.
- 4.2 Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda: there was no business arising from the minutes, which was not otherwise covered by the agenda.
- 4.3 Report and review of tasks from past EC meetings: the Executive Committee noted the report which had been circulated and that it would be updated with timelines and issued after each meeting for follow-up action.

5. Competitions: the Executive Committee noted that:

- 5.1 2012 World Junior Championships update:
 - The blue floor had worked very well and the standard of playing conditions was high.
 - The standard of the hotels was very high.
 - Despite a complex visa application process, all participants had received visas on time.
 - The media and television coverage was exceptional with extensive local and national coverage on all days and broadcasting to 29 countries.
 - The organising committee was producing a bulletin every 2 days.
 - The new team event playing format had worked well and the Junior Commission had decided to continue for the future.
- 5.2 2013 World Championships update:
 - A 2-day inspection had been completed following a visit by TMS to meet potential television broadcasters.
 - The meetings had focused on administration issues (the prospectus and directives).
 - The organisers had sold 21 000 tickets so far.
 - All preparations were going well but transport may be a concern due to the high volumes of traffic in Paris and using 2 different halls for the first 2 days.
 - Space for meeting rooms and museum still had to be secured.
 - The visa application deadline for delegations had been fixed for 20 March 2013.
 - The visa interview deadline could not be fixed as each consulate had different timelines.
 - There may be criticism that there was provision for a small number of spectators in the second hall at the INSEP.
 - TMS had met "L'Equipe 21", the TV-channel which had been launched officially on 12 December 2012, which was a terrestrial and cable operation reaching 60 to 80% of the French population.
- 5.3 2013 World Junior Championships:
 - Representatives from the Moroccan organising committee would be present in Hyderabad.
 - The main issue to be addressed was the lack of human resources.
- 5.4 2013 World Tour update:
 - The status of the Harmony Open had to be confirmed once the World Tour sponsorship had been finalised.
 - The "Challenge Series" was similar to the Euro-Africa Circuit with events in Europe, Africa and Americas.
 - In the "Super Series", U21 events were optional for organisers.
 - Organisers could still offer hospitality packages, but the participation fee had to be the first and mandatory option with teams organising their own hospitality.

- As in 2012, the Grand Finals would have US\$1m prize money and the total prize money for 2013 would be US\$2,5m.
 - The prize money and the World Tour point allocation would reflect the different tiers.
 - Confirmation of television coverage in the Challenge Series would assist TSA to finalise the TV sales packages.
- 5.5 2013 World Ranking system:
- The recommendation of the Athletes' Commission had been included that the loser would lose 50% of the points, which would be won by the winner.
 - The bonus points awarded for the Super Series would be B2, for Major Series B3 and Challenge Series B4.
 - Compression may be necessary at the end of 2013.
 - A comparative system for ranking reflecting the system in 2012 and 2013 would be a useful analytical tool.
 - The flat penalty point deduction for no-shows would be valid for 12 months from the date of implementation.
 - In the groups, if a player withdrew as a result of injury or illness, no penalty points would be applied at the next match with a no-show.
- 5.6 2014 World Championships update:
- The new playing system was being considered.
 - The new venues would be about 30 minutes travel time from the hotel.
 - 1 600 beds had been booked.
 - The first organising committee meeting would be held on 15 December 2012.
- 5.7 2014 World Junior Championships update: the same venue as the China vs. World Challenge match in Shanghai would be used.
- 5.8 Bid for 2016 World Championships: 2 bids from Malaysia and Sweden had been received and a site inspection would be organised in early 2013.

1-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee asked the CEO to provide a comparison for the 2013 ranking system using the 2012 and 2013 criteria for win-loss of points.

2-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee approved the ranking default policy and the changes to the ranking system as proposed.

- 6. Image, Branding and Promotion:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- The ITTF had made great strides with the integration of Facebook and Twitter in its operations but other aspects of promotion still had to be addressed.
 - Whitestone (UK) and Helios (USA) had presented proposals which would be given to the soon to be appointed Promotions Manager and the Marketing Director to develop an integrated proposal for ITTF.
- 7. Athletes' Commission report:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- Following a meeting with players at the European Championships, a letter relating to wishes for the World Tour had been submitted:
 - With an overall increase in prize money, the players requested that prize money should be paid from the 1st round of the main draw equivalent in value to covering at least 3 days accommodation in a 4 star hotel.
 - There should be more events with greater prize money.

- Conditions for the World Tour should be better with a greater correlation between prize money and the level of conditions and if there was a poor quality event, it could be removed from the calendar in the following year.
- The top 8 men and women seeds at the event should receive free accommodation in a 4 star hotel and access to the VIP room in exchange for promoting the event; this would require an increased contribution to the organisers and a definition of top 8 seeds (i.e. 8 seeds at start of event, or quarter finalists).
- The tables in the practice and playing halls should be identical.
- If the practice hall was not large enough to accommodate the demand, players should be allowed to train in the competition hall before the first round; with show tables, it was not always possible to have "identical" tables.
- The rule that players in the doubles should play in the same shirt was not applied in such a way to allow the players to have the same colour rather than exactly the same shirts as they may have different sponsors.
- There should be 16 seeds in the doubles draw.
- The "lucky loser" system should be abolished.
- In order to guarantee television coverage and therefore increased sponsorship, it would help if top players would "guarantee" that they would participate in certain events.
- Currently the participation of players was addressed through an incentive (free hospitality offered by organisers individually).
- In 2 years, the prize money for the World Tour had increased by US\$500 000.
- Jun Mizutani had stopped competing due to the use of boosters and tuners, which could not be detected through the racket control process.
- A proposal that from the quarterfinals on, the rubbers should be removed from the racket to check or that rubbers were fixed in the call area had been submitted.
- Further work would be done with the Executive Director (Education and Training), the Equipment Manager and the laboratory on detecting boosters.
- The ETTU was considering the establishment of an ETTU Athletes' Commission.
- Proposals from the Athletes' Commission for the AGM and BoD would be submitted by the due date.

3-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee asked the CEO, Marketing Director, Deputy Executive Director (Competitions) and TMS Managing Director, to discuss with the Athletes' Commission the guaranteed participation of top players at identified events to assist in increasing sponsorship income.

4-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee asked the CEO to send to the chairperson of the Athletes' Commission the summary evaluations of tournaments.

5-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee asked the CEO to ensure access to the VIP lounge on the final competition day for semi-finalists and finalists, including U21 players.

6-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee asked the Athletes' Commission to identify which events provided different brands and/or models of tables in competition and training halls.

7-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee asked the Deputy Executive Director (Operations) to add the racket control mission statement to the terms of reference of the Athletes' Commission.

8. Global Junior Programme: the Executive Committee noted that:

- 8.1 2012 World Cadet Challenge and Global Junior Circuit Finals:
 - These events had now been separated.
 - The Executive Director (Education and Training) would assess the impact on the separation of the events.
 - The support of the Guam Governor's office ensured the success of the event.
 - The Hopes Programme provided a stepping-stone to the World Cadet Challenge.
 - The Director (Competitions and Global Junior Programme) had set the bar very high to support the delivery of an excellent event.
 - The participation of the home team should be addressed.
- 8.2 Junior Commission report:
 - The present playing system for the World Junior Championships would be evaluated after 3 years.
 - The Executive Director (Education and Training) would evaluate the Global Junior Programme.
 - For the Youth Olympic Games, events already on the 2013 Global Junior Circuit calendar should be used for pre-qualification ensuring that an event per continent was included.
 - The events in Egypt, Korea, New Caledonia, Canada, Brazil and Hungary had been proposed as the pre-qualification events for the ITTF YOG World Qualification Tournament.
 - The same playing system as 2010 was supported (except eliminating the 2nd group stage in singles) and the age group should be 1996 to 1999.
 - The Junior Commission wished to clarify whether it was responsible for the Hopes Programme.
 - The Young Umpires' Project had been included in the presentation to the IOC as part of the overall proposed approach to the Youth Olympic Games.
- 8.3 2013 Global Junior Circuit:
 - One new organiser, Croatia, had been added to the calendar.
 - 32 events were now on the calendar for 2013.

8-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee agreed that the tables sponsored for the World Cadet Challenge should be divided equally between the national association and the Governor's office, with the option for the Governor to give all the tables to the association.

9-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee agreed that the Hopes programme would remain part of the Education and Training Programme.

9. TMS International update: the Executive Committee noted that:

- Volkswagen had paid 80% of the sponsorship agreement as they claimed that 20% had to be deducted for tax and this would be disputed by the ITTF.

- Discussions were underway with Liebherr for the World Championships (major sponsor), Men's World Cup (title sponsor) and World Team Cup (major sponsor) until 2015 and was linked to the extension of the agreement with Eurosport.
- Double Fish would sponsor the World Tour Grand Finals for the next 4 years and would replace Stag as the equipment sponsor for the ITTF North American Championships and Cup in 2013.
- DHS would replace Stag as the sponsor for the ITTF LATTU events in 2013.
- China Unicom would like to continue its association with the World Championships in 2013 and 2014.
- Tissot had not responded yet to the final offer for their association with the World Championships.
- Discussions were underway with the GAC Group for sponsorship of the World Tour.
- TSA had extended the number of agreements for television rights and its motivation would increase as more rights were acquired.

Continent	Territory covered	Broadcaster
Africa	Africa	SuperSport
Americas	Brazil	Globo
	Canada	CBC
	North America	Asia Broadcasting
	USA and Caribbean	America One
	Mexico and Latin America ex Brazil	MVS Multivision
Asia	Hong Kong	PCCW
	Macau	TDM
	Malaysia and Brunei	Astro
	Myanmar	SkyNet
	Singapore	Starhub, Mediacorp
	Thailand	GMM Grammy
	Vietnam	VCTV
	Pan-Asia	ESPN Star Sports
	Middle East	Middle East and North Africa
Europe	Belgium	VRT, RTBF
	Denmark	TV2
	Netherlands	NOS
	Europe	EBU (news access)
	Germany	Sport A (news access)
	Romania	TVR
	Russia	NTV Plus
	UK	gbsport.tv
	Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Georgia, Armenia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova	Poverknot TV
	Austria	ORF
	Sweden	SVT
	Turkey	Sports TV
Worldwide	Worldwide	SNTV (news access) Deutsche Welle
	Worldwide (excluding China, Japan, Korea)	Omnisport (news access)

- The flooring for the Youth Olympic Games would be Tinsue and this would also extend to the ITTF continental championships and cups for the next 2 years.
- For the first time ever, a sponsorship agreement had been signed with DHS for the 2014 ITTF PTT World Championships and the 2013 ITTF PTT Asian Championships.
- Fox Sports would cover Oceania events for 4 years.
- TMS had already transferred the full contractual amount for 2012 to the ITTF.

10-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee asked the Marketing Director to send the Volkswagen contract to Mr Weikert for an opinion on the deduction of 20% tax.

10. 2013 AGM and BoD: the Executive Committee noted that:

- 10.1 Review of the constitution and timelines:
 - Mr. Rönmark and Mr. Sporrer had developed the first draft in 2012.
 - Associations had been invited to submit their input on the current constitution by 1 March 2013.
 - The first formal draft incorporating the input from associations and the working group's draft would be developed and distributed by 15 June 2013.
 - Associations would be invited to comment on the next draft by 1 September 2013.
 - The final draft would be issued before December 2013 to be distributed 6 months before the 2014 AGM.
- 10.2 Continental federation affiliation:
 - The affiliation criteria draft would be presented at the DCC meeting on 14 December 2012 with continental federations commenting before the next Executive Committee meeting.
 - Applications would be submitted by 23 February 2013 (1st round) and, if approved by the AGM, benefits would be received retroactive from 1 January 2013.
 - Applications that would be submitted after 23 February but by 1 May 2013 (2nd round) and approved by the AGM, benefits would be received from 1 July 2013.
 - 4 continents had met the draft criteria already and indicated that they would meet the first timeline.
- 10.3 Illegal betting and anti-corruption rules:
 - Model rules developed by ASOIF had been adapted for the ITTF's use.
 - These rules should be added to the Handbook as chapter 6 if approved by the BoD.
- 10.4 Review of the anti-harassment policy:
 - Clause 23 should be changed to review the policy every 4 years.
 - Training for various people should be identified to prevent harassment from taking place.
 - The appointment of the anti-harassment officers should be considered.
- 10.5 Propositions and resolutions from the EC:
 - The process to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee should be adjusted.
 - The President will provide a proposed text for the next EC meeting.

11-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee asked the Deputy Executive Director (Operations) to request the chairperson of the Rules Committee to include wording to cover all

participants in the section on sanctions for the draft illegal betting and anti-corruption rules.

12-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee asked Ms Sörling and the Deputy Executive Director (Operations) to review the anti-harassment policy and submit proposals to the next Executive Committee meeting.

11. Finance: the Executive Committee noted that:

- 11.1 Finance and travel policy for PAC, BoD, committees and working groups:
 - The clause on exceptional circumstances should be removed.
 - The invitation letter to the PAC should be clear about rights and obligations.
- 11.2 Olympic allocation and investment:
 - The IOC would distribute additional funding as a result of increased income from the 2012 Olympic Games.
 - The negative cash flow in the fourth year of the quadrennial should be resolved as a result.
 - The development allocation to the continents would represent an increase of 31% over the previous quadrennial.
 - VAT would have to be paid to the Swiss authorities.
 - A similar amount would probably not be realised after the 2016 Olympic Games, as 2 additional sports would have been added to the programme.
 - Ways to invest the surplus to build up a reserve would be investigated by the President and the Deputy President.

13-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee resolved to provide the development continental allocation for 2013-2016 as previously decided.

14-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to investigate what investment packages other IFs were using and to report to the next meeting.

12. Equipment: the Executive Committee noted that:

- 12.1 Testing of floor quality and budget:
 - Currently floors were not re-tested once they had been approved.
 - 2 laboratories had been recommended to do the testing to assess the competence of the respective laboratories.
 - A minimum specification for the colour of the floor should be defined.
 - The laboratory in Singapore should be involved.
- 12.2 Branding:
 - There was some incorrect use of the ITTF logo by equipment manufacturers.
 - The addition of branding guidelines to the relevant technical leaflets was recommended.

15-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee, supporting the proposal for testing the floors in principle and to pay for one of the tests with the manufacturer paying the other test; asked the Marketing Director and Equipment Manager to:

- a) Involve the Singapore laboratory in testing the floors;

b) Recommend a period of time over which 2 tests should be done.

16-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee approved the branding guidelines for equipment and asked the Marketing Director and the Equipment Manager to ensure that they were included in the relevant technical leaflets for approval by the BoD.

13. Staff update: the Executive Committee noted that:

- 150 applications had been received for the post of Promotion Manager and the candidate finally recommended had a background in table tennis and was currently working in another IF.
- The contract with the Museum Curator had been signed.
- The Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) had opted not to continue with the organisation, had guaranteed a smooth transition and had offered to do some consultancy work for the ITTF.
- The Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) expressed his thanks for 14 productive years with the ITTF noting that the ITTF had grown from a small to medium sized federation, he was exiting at a time when the organisation was at a critical point.
- The President thanked Mr Jordi Serra and indicated that Mr Serra would be honoured at the next AGM.
- As a result, the CEO would discuss a new contract with the Deputy Executive Director (Operations) and a new staff member would be appointed.
- A part-time appointment to offer guided tours for the museum had been initiated as a result of a meeting between the President and the Mayor of Renens.
- For the first time, 6 continental development officers had been appointed.
- The Executive Director (Education and Training) would become a Senior Consultant to the Development, Education & Training Programme, as of 1 January 2013.
- The next phase of the staff structure plan would come in effect as of 1 January 2013 and details will be circulated to all concerned.

17-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee resolved to offer appointment of Promotions Manager to **Mr Matt Pound** with effect from 15 February 2013.

18-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee invited the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to the AGM at the World Championships in Paris.

14. Dates of future meetings: the Executive Committee noted that future meetings would be held:

- 14.1 Next EC meeting: 23 and 24 February 2013 (Doha)
- 14.2 Future EC meetings: 12 May and 20 May 2013 (Paris).

15. Any other business: the Executive Committee noted that:

- 15.1 Eligibility of a German player:
 - A player of Chinese origin who had lived in Germany for a long time could participate in the World Tour and Olympic Games but was not eligible to represent Germany in world title events as she was over 21 years old.
 - The issue revolved around the age at which the player changed nationality and the date at which the change was registered.

- 15.2 Greenland:
- A request had been received from the Greenland association to change from North America to Europe.
 - Geographically Greenland was closer to North America and politically to Europe.
- 15.3 Russian Open prize money:
- 3 months following the Russian Open, the prize money had not been paid to the players contrary to the agreement that it would be paid on site.
 - The TTFR had not responded to follow up communication.
- 15.4 Congo Kinshasa:
- The debt had not yet been paid.
 - The Minister of Sport had confirmed that there was a problem across sports for the payment of outstanding debts, except for football.
- 15.5 Visa interview deadline for the 2013 World Championships:
- As there were different deadlines depending on the consulate, it was difficult to set a deadline for visa interviews.
 - A visa deadlines for teams was essential but for individuals, there could be some flexibility.
- 15.6 Recognition of national associations:
- In 2010, the BoD had resolved to require confirmation of the NOC to recognise a national association whereas before, the confirmation of both the Government and the NOC had been required.
 - The previous recognition system encouraged cooperation between the Government and the NOC.
 - This issue should be reconsidered at the next Executive Committee meeting.
- 15.7 Suspensions of NOCs: the NOC of India had been suspended by the IOC, which had also lifted the suspension on the NOC of Kuwait.

19-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee resolved not to authorise the change in eligibility of the player as requested by the DTTB.

20-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee resolved that the Greenland Table Tennis Association should decide whether to be in North America or Europe and asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to follow up. The EC did not object to the change.

21-EC-12-2012

The Executive Committee asked the CEO to propose that the TTFR pay to the ITTF US\$40,000 to pay the prize money to the players by the end of 2012, failing which the Executive Committee may impose sanctions.

16. Adjournment: there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 16h45.

Adham Sharara
President

Date